

Annex 1 - Animal Care And Control

In an emergency, the care of animals - including pets, service animals, livestock, exotic [zoo] animals, and wildlife – is an important facet of ESF #6. The City of Tucson will rely on the established procedures of the Pima County Animal Care Center to accomplish this objective. Appendix A consists of the following:

- *“A Procedure to Protect Wild and Domestic Animal Resources in the Event of a Large-scale Emergency in Pima County” (Pima County August 2007) and;*
- *“The Pima Domestic Animal Rescue Team (PDART) Emergency Operations Plan” (Revised September 2008)*

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #6 Of the Pima County Emergency Response Plan

**A procedure to protect wild and domestic animal
resources
in the event of a large-scale emergency in Pima
County**

August 2007

PRIMARY AGENCIES:

Pima Animal Care Center
Pima Domestic Animal Rescue Team (PDART)
Pima County Emergency Management

SUPPORT AGENCIES

Pima County Sheriff's Department.	American Red Cross
Food Bank	Salvation Army
VOAD	Health Department
U of A Extension	Arizona Fish & Game Department

I. INTRODUCTION**A. Purpose Statement:**

To protect wild and domesticated animal resources, the public health, the public food supply, the environment, and to ensure the humane care and treatment of animals in case of a large-scale emergency, including floods, drought, fire, explosion, building collapse, commercial transportation accidents, chemical spills, or other situations that cause animal sufferings.

B. Scope:

This Plan is intended for use by local government to take immediate action in providing a means of care and control to minimize animal suffering in the event of a large-scale emergency. This action will be aimed at all animals that may need help whether such animals are owned, stray, domestic, or wild.

The Director of Emergency Management or authorized representative(s) may place into effect established plans and procedures and direct both the emergency and recovery aspects of the incident. The Director may deviate from these procedures when, in the director's judgment, immediate and direct action is necessary to protect the public safety.

II. ASSUMPTIONS

- A. The owners of pets or livestock, when notified of a pending emergency, will take reasonable steps to shelter, and provide for animals under their care and/or control.
- B. Natural, technological, or manmade disaster could affect the well-being of domesticated or non-domesticated animals.
- C. Pima County plans for emergency situations, and to conduct response and recovery operations utilizing local resources.
- D. Animal protection planning should ensure the proper care and recovery of animals impacted during an emergency. These plans may include measures to identify house, and shelter animals, communicate information on the public, and initiate proper animal release.

- E. Public information statements will be issued through various media outlets. This will include locations where domestic and non-domestic animals (including livestock) may be accepted during emergency situations.
- F. A large-scale emergency may warrant immediate response from State and Local personnel, agencies, and organizations. However, emergency situations may become compounded due to the nature of the emergency and also require activation of additional specialized agencies through mutual aid.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General:

1. The primary and support agencies identified in this ESF will manage and coordinate local animal care activities. These agencies will use established animal care processes, and procedures. Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs in the event of a large-scale emergency lies primarily with the Pima Animal Care Center, and the Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.
2. Requests for animal protection assistance and resources such as food, medicine, shelter material, specialized personnel, and additional veterinary medical professionals will be transmitted from the Pima Animal Care Center to the Pima County Office of Emergency Management, and then if need be to the Arizona Division of Emergency Management. (Should the need for Federal or State resources exist, the state Emergency Operations Center will coordinate the request for assistance)
3. Animal protection operations will be managed under the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Public Health concerns will be managed in accordance with appropriate Pima County plans and procedures.
4. Animals Included Under the Plan:
 - a. The sheltering and protection of domestic and non-domestic animals (including livestock) are the responsibility of their owners.
 - b. Domestic and non-domestic animals that are lost, strayed, incapable of being cared for by their owners, and/or present a danger to themselves or the public will be the responsibility of Pima Animal Care Center officials, or other identified agencies. These animals will be sheltered, fed, and, when possible, returned to their owners. Animals that cannot be returned to their owners will be disposed of in accordance with established animal control procedures.

- c. Wild animals should be left to their own survival instincts. Wild animals out of their natural habitats that are in danger either to themselves or the public will be the responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish personnel, in cooperation with local animal control officials, and returned to their natural habitat when practical.

B. Notification:

This plan and implementing procedures will be activated in the event of a large-scale emergency causing a significant need for animal protection. The Manager of the Pima Animal Care Center, in cooperation with the Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, will determine when these procedures will be implemented and notify the appropriate primary, support, and mutual aid agencies.

C. Communications:

Communications between primary and support agencies will occur primarily through radio, telephone, facsimile and cellular telephone transmission. Amateur radio may be used as a backup system when other communications fail due to the nature of the emergency situation.

D. Public Information (PI):

The Pima Animal Care Center Public Information Officer or designated representative will be responsible for the coordination of all media activities and press releases associated with the protection of animals.

Public Information responsibilities may include:

1. Notifying the public of appropriate animal shelters that are receiving lost/stray animals, animals that cannot be cared for, or animals that need immediate medical assistance.
2. Delivering instructions to the public on how to prepare their pets for an impending emergency and/or instructions for minor "at home" medical responses for pets injured in an emergency situation.
3. Initiating a system to direct inquiries on lost pets to the appropriate animal shelters.
4. Other information as appropriate to the situation.

E. Response:

The owners of domestic animals, when notified of an emergency, will take all reasonable steps to shelter and provide for animals under their control.

1. Search and Rescue

a. Domestic Pets:

Domestic pets that are loose, or in need of assistance due to the emergency, or to the death, or evacuation of their owners may become the responsibility of the Pima Animal Care Center.

b. Livestock:

Un-penned livestock or livestock in need of assistance due to an emergency, or due to the death, or evacuation of their owners may become the responsibility of Pima Animal Care officials.

c. Wild Animals:

Wild animals forced from their natural habitat, which are endangering either themselves, or the human population, will be the responsibility of Arizona Game & Fish Department.

d. Stranded Animals:

In the event animals cannot be rescued due to the emergency situation, food and medical assistance may be delivered to the animals by the members of the Pima Domestic Animal Rescue Team (PDART) when possible.

e. Additional Aid:

In the event that local resources are unable to meet the need for search and rescue personnel, a representative from the Pima Animal Care Center will request search and rescue assistance from the American Humane Association and/or the Humane Society of the United States and/or other available rescue groups via appropriate channels.

2. Shelters

a. Evacuated Domestic Pets:

Private Resources

The owners of domestic pets are responsible to have their pets sheltered at private boarding kennels and/or veterinarian hospitals.

Upon the activation of evacuation shelters for citizens, the Manager of the Pima Animal Care Center will request the opening of prearranged private boarding kennels and veterinarian hospitals as boarding facilities.

b. Animal Evacuation Shelter:

If the need arises, Pima Animal Care Center may open an evacuation pet shelter. Pets of evacuated citizens will be transported to this shelter as citizens arrive with their pets at the human evacuation shelters.

c. Evacuated Citizens with Special Needs:

Citizens with special needs (individuals with mental or physical handicaps who require evacuation assistance) may require assistance in evacuating their pets.

If special needs individuals are unwilling or unable to make arrangements for the sheltering of their animal, those individuals animals may be transported to the animal evacuation shelter.

In the event that the individual and the animal cannot be separated due to the individual's infirmity, the animal will be sheltered in the same facility as the animal however it will be in a separate appropriate area.

d. Stray/Lost Domestic Pets:

All stray/lost domestic pets recovered by the Pima Animal Care Center will be sheltered by the Pima Animal Care Center. Any pets whose owners cannot care for them, or domestic pets found by citizens and turned over to the Pima Animal Care Center will also be sheltered by the Pima Animal Care Center.

Private boarding kennels and veterinarian shelters will serve as overflow shelters, and will be requested to open through the Pima Animal Care Center as necessary. Unclaimed animals will be disposed of according to Statute and Pima Animal Care Center procedures.

e. Evacuated and Stray/Lost Livestock:

Due to the size of most livestock and the inability to transport large numbers of farm animals, owners are expected to develop shelter and/or evacuation plans for their animals.

Private farms located throughout the county may be used as shelter facilities for livestock. In the event of an emergency situation, Pima County Emergency Management (or U of A Extension Program?) will contact prearranged farms and request their assistance in sheltering operations.

vi. Wild Animals:

Wild animals are the province of the Arizona Game & Fish Department. If possible, wild animals outside of their natural habitat & endangering the public, will be transported back to their natural habitat. If the responsible agencies are unable to transport the animal back to its natural habitat due to either the nature of the emergency or to injuries to the animal, the animal may (if appropriate) be transported to the Pima County Animal Care Shelter for medical treatment or disposal in accordance with established animal control procedures.

vii. Incapacitation of Shelters:

In the event that established shelters are destroyed or incapable of functioning due to the nature of the emergency situation, private boarding kennels, stables and veterinarian hospitals may be requested to open as boarding and/or medical facilities. In rare cases, during large-scale emergencies, animals may be moved outside Pima County for care and protection. This will be accomplished at the direction of the Pima Animal Care Center Manager.

f. Staff/supplies:

i. Staff:

Private boarding kennels and veterinarian hospitals are responsible for the staffing of their own boarding facilities and will be compensated by the citizens who use those animal shelters according to the established policies of those animal shelters unless other arrangements have been made.

Remaining animal shelters and hospitals will be staffed with available personnel from the Pima County Animal Care Center and volunteer veterinarians and veterinarian assistants. Each individual animal shelter will be responsible for developing the work schedules for employees and volunteers.

ii. Supplies:

Each animal shelter will identify resources for potable water, food, medical, cleaning and shelter supplies in advance of an emergency situation.

Prearranged domestic and non-domestic animal food companies, medical suppliers, water suppliers and cleaning product suppliers will be contacted and requested to begin the shipment of supplies to an established delivery point. The delivery point will serve as a storage center and a distribution center for shelters and hospitals.

If the need arises, resource agencies (e.g. kennel clubs) may be requested to donate cages and other various shelter supplies.

3. Medical:

A. Hospitals

The Pima County Animal Care Center will coordinate the resources for a medical facility for domestic animals which cannot be accommodated by the various shelters due to the animal's injuries.

B. Staff:

Volunteers may assist in providing staff to identified shelters.

Depending on the extent of the emergency situation, volunteers or Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams from the American Veterinary Medical Association may be requested to assist in the medical treatment of domestic and non-domestic animals.

4. Bites/Disease Control:

The Pima County Health Department may make no-cost vaccinations available to rescue and shelter personnel and may insure that treatment of bites and injuries is available to affected persons.

An outbreak of rabies is a serious threat during an emergency situation. Appropriate steps to control that threat will be implemented by the Pima County Health Department and the Pima Animal Care Center.

IV. Recovery:

A. Release/Destruction:

1. Domestic Pets/livestock:

The Pima County Animal Care Center will support efforts to identify owners of stray/lost animals. If owners cannot be found, Animal Care representatives will attempt to adopt or sell the animals according to established procedures.

Animals for which no owners can be found and which cannot be placed in adoptive care or sold will be disposed of according to statute and established Pima Animal Care Center procedures.

2. Wild Animals:

The Pima County Animal Care Center, in cooperation with the Arizona Game & Fish, will support efforts to reintroduce wild animals back to their natural habitats.

B. Disposal of Animal carcasses:

Disposal of deceased animals will be the responsibility of the Pima County Health Department. They will arrange for disposal of:

- Euthanized animals
- Animals killed in the emergency situation

V. Review and Update

This procedure will be reviewed and updated as appropriate by the Pima Animal Care Center, the Pima County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, and other affected agencies.

This procedure will be periodically tested by an appropriate exercise method or in the event of an actual emergency disaster affecting Pima County.

Annex A

Pima County Disaster Planning For Pets, Livestock, and Wildlife

Domestic Pets

- If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND**. Pets most likely cannot survive on their own, and if by chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return.
- For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Find out which motels and hotels in your area allow pets. Include your local animal shelter's number in your list of emergency numbers - they will be able to provide information concerning pets during a disaster.
- Make sure identification tags are up to date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site. Make sure you have a current photo of your pet for identification purposes.
- Make sure you have a secure pet carrier, leash or harness for your pet so that if the animal panics, it cannot escape.
- Take pet food, bottle water, medications, veterinary records, cat litter/pan, can opener food dishes, first aid kit and other supplies with you in case they are not available later.
- Make sure you have a copy of your pet's medical records. If you are unable to return to your home right away, you may need to board your pet. Most boarding kennels, animal shelters, and veterinarians require that your pet's vaccinations are current.
- If it is impossible to take your pet with you to temporary shelter, contact friends, family, veterinarians, or boarding kennels to arrange for care. Make sure medical and feeding information, food, medicine and other supplies accompany your pet to its foster home.

Livestock

- Evacuate livestock whenever possible. The evacuation sites should have, or be able to, readily obtain food, water, veterinary care, handling equipment and facilities.
- If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made whether to move large animals to available shelter or turn them outside. This decision should be determined based on the type of disaster and the soundness and location of the shelter.
- All animals should have some form of identification that will help facilitate their return.

Wildlife

- Wild animals often seek higher ground during floods. The surrounding lower level ground is submerged, and the animals become stranded. Animals have a flight response and will flee from anyone approaching too closely, so if the island is large enough to provide suitable shelter, it is better to leave food appropriate to the species.
- Wildlife often seek refuge from flood water on upper levels of a home and many remain even after the water recedes. If you meet a rat or snake face to face, be careful but don't panic. Open a window or other escape route and the animal will probably leave on its own. Never attempt to capture a wild animal unless you have the training, protective clothing, restraint equipment and caging necessary to perform the job.
- Beware of an increased number of snakes and other predators who will try to feed on the carcasses of reptiles, amphibians and small mammals who have been drowned or crushed in their burrows and under rocks.
- Often, during natural disasters, mosquitoes and dead animal carcasses may present disease problems. Outbreaks of anthrax, encephalitis and other diseases may occur. Contact the Pima County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security for assistance.

Further Assistance

- If you see any injured or stranded animal in need of assistance, or if you have any other questions or concerns about animal protection during an emergency situation, contact the Pima County Animal Care Center at (520) 243-5900.

**THE
PIMA DOMESTIC ANIMAL RESCUE TEAM
(PDART)

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

Revised: September 2008

INTRODUCTION:

The Pima Domestic Animal Rescue Team (PDART) is a volunteer organization dedicated to the rescue, evacuation, and temporary housing and maintenance of domestic animals during disaster situations.

The PDART is currently comprised of personnel and representatives from the Pima Animal Care Center, the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Program, the Arizona Department of Agriculture, the Pima County 4-H Clubs, Arizona Fish and Game Department, the American Red Cross, Pima County Health Department, Tucson Saddle Club, Reed Park Zoo, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and others as needed or required.

Each member organization shall maintain a current listing of available trained personnel and rescue resources from that organization which will be available to assist when required.

MISSION:

To coordinate veterinary medical care, evacuation, sheltering, and carcass location identification and disposal during and following a disaster, and to coordinate the gathering of animal related data before, during, and after a disaster.

PDART ACTIVATION:

The PDART will be activated through the Pima Animal Care Center during a declared state of emergency, and will assist the Pima Animal Care Center in the preservation of the health and safety of the public and domestic animals within Pima County.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Of paramount importance will be the safety of the PDART volunteers; of secondary import will be the safety of any domestic animals placed in their care.

PDART activities may include:

1. Impounding of abandoned animals for their own safety
2. Providing temporary care and shelter for abandoned domestic animals
3. Rescuing and rehabilitating trapped or injured domestic animals
4. Providing temporary shelter for domestic animals that are surrendered or turned over by their owners for temporary housing

ASSUMPTIONS:

It is assumed that owners of pets and livestock, when notified of an impending emergency, will take reasonable steps to shelter and provide for animals under their care.

Natural, technological, and/or man made disasters could affect the welfare of domesticated and/or none-domesticated animals within our community.

A large scale emergency incident in Pima County may warrant an immediate response from several local, state and federal agencies and organizations. Emergency situations may become compounded due to the nature of the incident, and may require activation of additional specialized organizations through the activation of mutual-aid agreements.

SITUATION ASSESSMENT:

The Pima Animal Care Center, and the other support agencies identified in this plan will manage and coordinate local animal protection activities. Situation assessment related to the emergency will rest with the Pima Animal Care Center.

ANIMALS INCLUDED UNDER THIS PLAN:

Domestic and none domestic animals that are lost, strayed, or that are incapable of being cared for by their owners, or are in physical danger, or that represent a danger to themselves or to the public.

These animals will be sheltered, fed and if possible, ultimately returned to their owners. If the animals can not be returned to their owners, they will be disposed of in accordance with established Pima Animal Care Center Procedures.

WILD ANIMALS:

Wild animals should, when ever possible, be left to their own natural survival instincts. Wild animals displaced from their natural habitat, that become a threat to themselves or to the public, will be the responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

FIELD OPERATIONS:

PDART members may be requested to conduct rescue operations for abandoned animals in a portion of the community that has been damaged by a disaster. This will be done **“ONLY UPON SPECIFIC DIRECTION FROM THE INCIDENT COMMANDER”**.

Only the threat of loss of life or serious injury to an animal may result in an animal being impounded.

In all instances of the impounding of an animal, the PDART members will document in detail the removal of that animal to a shelter location, and will immediately provide a copy of that documentation to the Pima Animal Care Center.

In every instance, every available measure will be taken to insure that the identity of the animal, and its owner, are maintained. This may include, but is not limited to photography, micro-chipping, or tattooing.

In each instance, sheltering and veterinarian “best practices” levels of care will be followed.

In the event that animals can not be rescued due to the type of emergency situation, water, food, and veterinary medical assistance may be delivered to the animals by appropriate agency personnel when it is possible to do so without risk to the responders.

ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Pima Animal Care Center

- Will coordinate the animal care response and provide a designated animal group supervisor to the Incident Commander
- Will provide, when available, computerized equipment to facilitate the identification process for animals and owners that may be brought into a shelter operation maintained by the PDART
- Will make available an Emergency Management Coordinator to assist in obtaining a suitable facility for a temporary shelter operation, and coordinate “Field Operations” as needed
- Will locate suitable quarters for the PDART to conduct domestic animal sheltering operations
- Will maintain a listing of facilities that will provide emergency shelter and feeding of animals of all sizes

Humane Society of Southern Arizona

- Will provide portable kennels and ancillary equipment needed to set up and maintain a temporary shelter away from the main facilities of the Pima Animal Care Center, and the Humane Society of Southern Arizona
- Will provide trained staff to operate temporary animal shelters as required

The Arizona Department of Agriculture

Brad Cowan – Animal Health & Welfare Office
Large Animals (Horses & Cattle)

Due to the size of most livestock, and the inability to transport large numbers of farm animals, owners are expected to develop shelter and/or evacuation plans for their own animals. The relocation and care of “Large Animals” will be the responsibility of the Arizona Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Pima County 4-H Clubs, and PDART special interest animal groups such as the Tucson Saddle Club

The Arizona Department of Agriculture

Dr. Cesar Ruiz – Division of Animal Services
Dr. Ted Noon – Division of Animal Services

Veterinary Services

The University of Arizona Extension Service

Dr. Peder Cuneo – Veterinary Assistance with large animals

Pima County 4 – H Clubs

Bob Peterson – Coordinator

Housing of and care of small and intermediate sized animals (chickens, rabbits, fowl, sheep, pigs, etc.)

Tucson Saddle Club

Steve Pferdeort – Coordinator

Transport, stabling, and care for horses

American Red Cross

Cheryl Bender – Coordinator

Coordinator for human shelters and associated animal shelters

Pima County Health Department

Louis Valenzuela

Zoonotic disease control coordination between the PDART and the Health Department

Reid Park Zoo

Scott Burton

Care for exotic domestic animals

Arizona Sonora Desert Museum

Craig

Care for displaced desert dwelling animals